

The Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Day

December 25, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.

Holy Communion, Setting 2



Welcome! On this Christmas morning the people of God gather to celebrate the birth of the Word made flesh, Christ our Lord. Luke recounts the familiar story of shepherds and angels; John's Gospel tells of the Word that dwells among us, full of grace and truth. The meaning of Christmas is made clear: the Light shines in the darkness. It is in the liturgy that we encounter the Word made flesh—in the people of God gathered together as the body of Christ, and in the meal around the holy table. We go forth to be bearers of light as we proclaim this good news to all the ends of the earth.

Join your heart and voice in praising our Incarnate Lord in today's worship service. Hymn references are from *Lutheran Service Book* (LSB). If you would like more information about St. John's and our ministry, please speak with one of the greeters, ushers, or the pastor. A very blessed and holy Christmas to everyone!



Prayer Before Worship

Gracious God, on this blessed morning we join with all of creation in singing our thanks for the gift of all gifts: the birth of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Let his coming be at the center of our Christmas celebration, and help us to carry the good news of his birth out into the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Welcome

Prelude-Service Music

"A Christmas Prelude" (Charles Callahan)

Ringling of the Bells

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Let us confess our sins to God our Father

C Almighty and gracious Father ✝, we have sinned against you and against each other. You have created us to live in peace, but we have rebelled against your will. You command us to love you with all of our heart, our mind, our soul, and our strength. We have not and we do not. You command us to love our neighbors as ourselves. We have not and we do not. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy upon us and forgive us for all our sins.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Take heart, dear saints! Our God has heard your cry for mercy. He has sent his one and only Son in your flesh, and there Christ Jesus is pleased to dwell. He has reconciled you to God and made peace by the blood of his cross. Because of this, I can stand before you and announce today that all of your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father, ✝ the Son, and the Holy Spirit!

C Amen. His gospel is peace!

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Processional Hymn

"Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful" (LSB 379)



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;
Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to Thee — be — glo - ry giv'n!

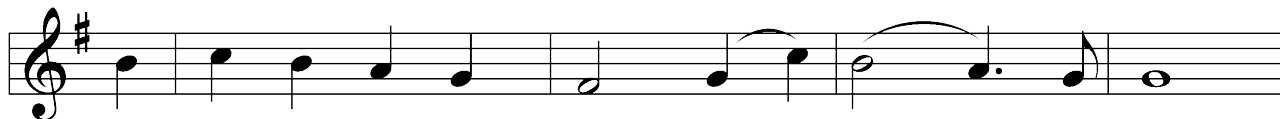


Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God In the high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-80, alt.
 Text and tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711-1786
 Text and tune: Public domain

Greeting

P Today Christ is born: Alleluia, alleluia!

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

Opening Dialogue

(Colossians 1:15-20)

P He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

C For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth,
 visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or
 authorities – all things were created through him and for him.

P And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

C And he is the head of the body, the church.

P He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything
 he might be preeminent.

C For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,

P and though him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

C His gospel is peace!

Gloria in Excelsis



A Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to His peo-ple on earth.



C Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther: We wor - ship You, we give You thanks, we



praise You for Your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly



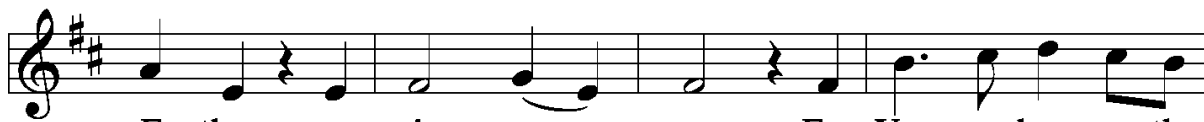
Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God: You



take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on



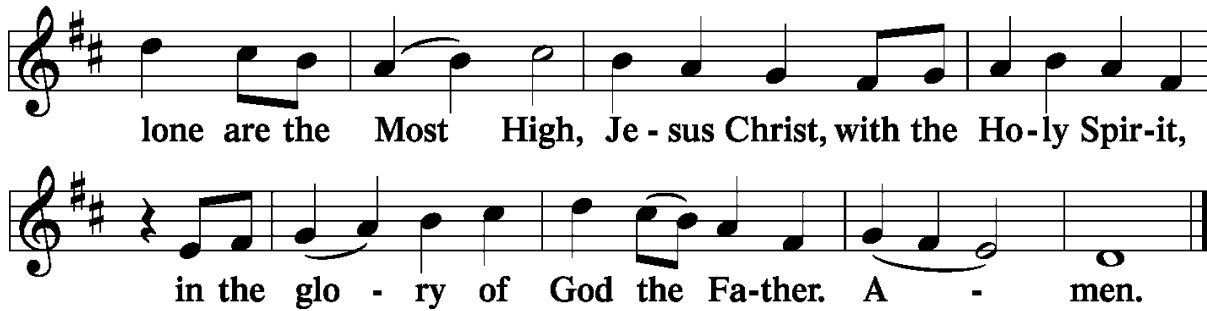
us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the



Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For You a - lone are the



Ho - ly One, You a - lone are the Lord, You a -



Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you

C **And also with you**

P Let us pray:

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 52:7–10

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of him who brings good news,
who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,
who publishes salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

⁸The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;
together they sing for joy;
for eye to eye they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.

⁹Break forth together into singing,
you waste places of Jerusalem,
for the LORD has comforted his people;
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

Ⓛ This is the Word of the Lord.

Ⓒ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalmody

Psalm 98

("Joy to the World" is Isaac Watts' paraphrase of this psalm)

All: *(sung)* **Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room
And heav'n and nature sing...**

Ⓛ Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. The Lord has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations. He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

All: *(sung)* **Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy...**

Ⓛ Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; make music to the Lord with harp, with the harp and the sound of singing, with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn, shout for joy before the Lord, the King.

All: *(sung)* **No more let sin and sorrow grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found...**

Ⓛ Let the sea resound and all that is in it, the world and all that live in it. Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy; let them sing before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the people with equity.

All: *(sung)* **He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love...**

Epistle

Hebrews 1:1-12

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say,
"You are my Son; today I have begotten you"?

Or again,

"I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"?

⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,
"Let all God's angels worship him."

⁷Of the angels he says,

"He makes his angels winds,
and his servants flames of fire."

⁸But of the Son he says,

"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.

⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

¹⁰And,

"In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;

¹¹they will perish, but you remain;

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon

"The Promise in Flesh"

Hymn of the Day

"A Great and Mighty Wonder" (LSB 383)

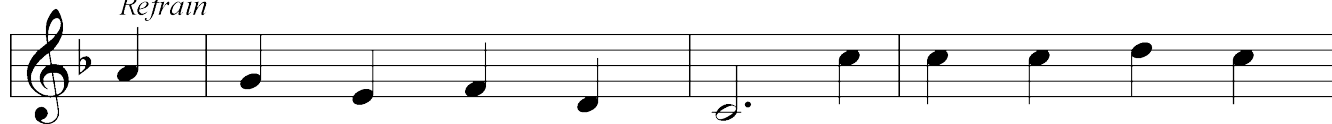


1 A great and mighty wonder, A full and holy cure:
 2 The Word becomes incarnate And yet remains on high,
 3 While thus they sing your Monarch, Those bright angelic bands,
 4 Since all He comes to ransom, By all be He adored,
 5 All idols then shall perish And Satan's lying cease,

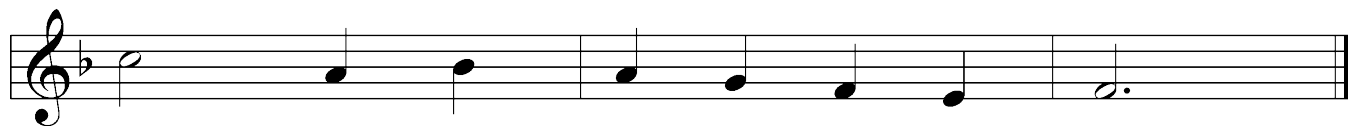


The virgin bears the infant With virgin honor pure!
 And cherubim sing anthems To shepherds from the sky.
 Rejoice, O vales and mountains, And oceans, clap your hands.
 The infant born in Bethl'em, The Savior and the Lord.
 And Christ shall raise His scepter, Decreeing endless peace.

Refrain



Proclaim the Savior's birth: "To God on high be



glory And peace to all the earth!"

Text: Germanus, c. 634–c. 734; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
 Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, 1599, Köln
 Text and tune: Public domain

Profession of Faith Luther's Explanation of the Second Article of the Creed

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from all eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. Who at great cost has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person. Purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death. All this He has done that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

Prayer of the Church

P Let us bring our prayers for the church, all creation, and the needs of the world before God.

Special petitions are announced, followed by a brief silence. Each petition closes with the words,

*"Lord in Your mercy." Please respond by saying, "**Hear our prayer.**"*

The prayers conclude with:

P Rejoicing in your glory revealed to the world, we offer these and all our prayers to you, O God of our salvation, through Christ our light.

C Amen.

Following the prayers, the people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying,

"Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit

in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).

Announcements

Offertory Prayer

L Let us pray:

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be a blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Preface



P The Lord be with you.



C And al-so with you.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Preface for Christmas

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made

flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
 pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is He who comes in the name
 of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends

of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☩ Amen.

Lord's Prayer

☐ Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

☩ Our Father who art in heaven,

hallowed be Thy name,

Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;

give us this day our daily bread;

**and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who
trespass against us;**

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

**For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever
and ever. Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord

☐ Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

PThe peace of the Lord be with you always.

CAmen.

Agnus Dei



C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the



sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of



God, You take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

Please be seated

Distribution

Lutheran Christians believe and teach that in the Sacrament of the Altar, Christ's body and blood are given to those who receive the bread and wine. With the bread and wine, the gifts of His body and blood are given to Christ's people for forgiveness of sins, strength for our journey of faith, and a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. All who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and who trust His words that these gifts are given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins, are invited to receive the Eucharist.

Please follow the direction of the ushers to come to the Lord's Table. The bread will be distributed first. **Gluten-free wafers** are available for those who may need these. Please indicate this to the pastor at the distribution. The wine is then received by individual glasses only. Non-alcoholic grape

juice is available for those who for medical or recovery purposes must abstain from alcohol.

Children who do not receive the Sacrament are invited to come forward and receive a blessing. Please cross arms over chest so the pastor and lay assistant are able to distinguish children who do commune from those who do not yet receive the Sacrament.

For additional self-preparation to receive the Sacrament, please see "Christian Questions with Their Answers" beginning on page 1351 in the pew Bible.

Distribution Hymns

"What Child Is This"

(LSB 370)



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

"God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"

1. God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may;
2. From God our heaven - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came,
3. "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "let noth - ing you af - fright;
4. Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place,

1. re - mem - ber Christ our Sav - ior was born on Christ - mas Day
2. and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same,
3. this day is born a Sav - ior of a pure vir - gin bright,
4. and with true love and gentle - ness each oth - er now em - brace;

1. to save us all from Sa - tan's power when we were gone a - stray.
2. how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.
3. to free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's power and might."
4. this ho - ly tide of Christ - mas all oth - ers doth de - face.

Refrain
O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and joy;

O tid - ings of com - fort and joy.

Dismissal

P The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

Post-Communion Cantic

C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev - 'ry-one what He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -
joice and proud - ly bear His name. He re-calls His prom-is-
es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Public domain

Post-Communion Collect

L Let us pray:

Great and saving God, you have gathered your scattered people around gifts of bread and wine, the body and blood of our Savior Christ. As we, like the shepherds, return on our way, may we proclaim all we have heard and seen, praising you in word and loving deed for the gift of Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Benediction

P The peace of Christ, born to us this day, rule in your hearts and fill your lives with joy. As you go from this place, live as forgiven members of his body called to peace and unity and overflowing with thanksgiving. The love of the Savior who came to dwell among us guide your steps, calm your fears, and strengthen your faith. The blessing of God Almighty-the Father, the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit-be with you now and always.

C Amen.

Sending


L Go in peace. Share the good news that Christ is born.

C Thanks be to God.

Recessional Hymn

"Go Tell It on the Mountain" (LSB 388)

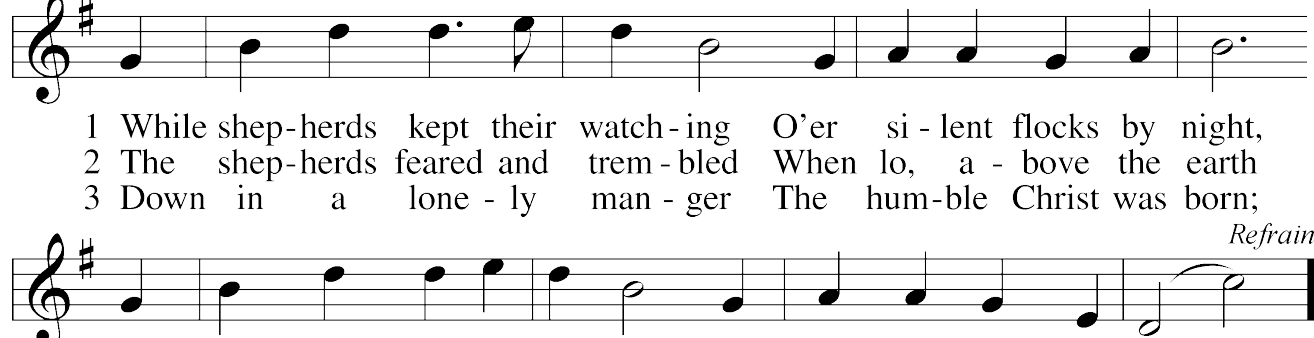
Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;
Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch - ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem - bled When lo, a - bove the earth
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum-ble Christ was born;

Refrain



Be - hold, through - out the heav - ens There shone a ho - ly light.
Rang out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Text (sts. 1-3): John W. Work II, 1873-1925, alt.
Text (ref) and tune: African American spiritual
Text and tune: Public domain

Postlude

"A Christmas Postlude" (Charles Callahan)



Our Ministry of Worship

Officiant/Preacher	Pastor Meehan
Lay Assistant	Steve Rempe
Communion Lay Assistant	Chuck Fosse
Organist/Pian	David Leahey, Director of Music
Acolyte	Samuel Rempe
Crucifer	Grace Rempe
Ushers	St. John's Usher Team
Altar Care	Cathy Long
AV Operator	St. John's AV Team
Welcome Host	Joe Godwin



**We're glad you chose to worship with us at this special service.
Please join us as we continue to celebrate the birth of Jesus:**

Sunday, December 28 (First Sunday after Christmas)

Lessons and Carols of Christmas - No Holy Communion at 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, December 31 (New Year's Eve)

Worship with Holy Communion at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 4 (Epiphany of Our Lord)

Worship with Holy Communion at 10:30 a.m.



Tonight's **altar flowers** are by donations to the flower fund.

SCAN HERE TO



CONNECT WITH SJLC



- Give online
- Read/Sign up for newsletters
- Register or attend events/classes
- Request for prayers
- Connect on social media
- ...AND MORE!

Poinsettias



Jeannette Bottomley
T Carter

In honor of my daughter, Susan
In loving memory of Eleanor Carter
Mark & Jean Gilbertson In celebration of
our Risen Savior Jesus Christ

Ethel & John Sullivan
Pastor and June Meehan

In memory of loved ones
In honor of the Christ Child
Angela Schulze To all the moms who do so
much for all of us.

Barbara Wright

To the Glory of God

Acknowledgments

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St. John's Lutheran Church
5952 Franconia Road
Alexandria, VA 22310



A member congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

St. John's Lutheran Church Staff

Pastor	Rev. John Meehan
Director of Discipleship	Jennifer Hills, DCE
Director of Music	David Leahey
Office/Facilities Administrator	Michelle May
Finance Administrator	Jennifer Smith

Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) Staff

Director of ECEC	Amanda Parks
ECEC Administrator	Kari Wells

Contact Us

Office: 703-971-2210

ECEC: 703-971-3581

Website: www.sjlc.com

Emails

Pastor: pastor.meehan@sjlc.com

Director of Discipleship: jennifer.hills@sjlc.com

Director of Music: david.leahey@sjlc.com

Office: office@sjlc.com

Finance: finance@sjlc.com

ECEC Director: ecec@sjlc.com

ECEC Administrator: ecec.admin@sjlc.com